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LECTURE CXXV.

THE CAUCASUS.

The bloodiest battles in the history of the world are being fought to-day on the fields of Caucasia in Russia, and the fate of Stalingrad, a key town on the road to the Caucasus, hangs in the balance. The German General in charge of these operations with an army of a million men attempts to conquer this 'town of steel' seemingly unaffected by the staggering losses he suffers, for the German military machine has long been thirsty for oil; oil is in Caucasia and Stalingrad is on the road to the liquid gold of Caucasia. The bulk of Russians oil is extracted from the Caucasian wells, chiefly those of Baku, on the Caspian Sea, which provide about three-fourths of the total production of the U. S. S. R.

The Caucasus is a region of high mountains which lies in the narrow land between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It is the southernmost region of Russia. The mountains are very steep and covered with dense undergrowth. The ridges run from east to west from sea to sea and present a very difficult barrier to movement, from north to south. In fact the only railway through this barrier runs on the narrow strip of coast between the eastern end of the mountains and the Caspian Sea. The highest mountain in this region is Mount Elburz.

In winter, this is a region of bitter cold. From November the Caucasus are covered deep in snow and the one great road through the Caucasus range, the Georgian Military Highway, is kept open with great difficulty. Much labour is required for clearing the snow.

Yet this remote mountain area is the prize for which Hitler is straining every nerve. A hundred years ago none but a madman would have set out to conquer the Caucasus. But now the situation is changed. Now we are living in an age of oil, petrol for lorries and war machines, oil for lubrication of all machinery, crude oil for heavy engines and kerosene for light and fuel ; these oils are liquid gold in modern times : they are the source of might in war and the basis of industrial progress in peace. The Caucasus is one of the greatest oil producing regions of the world and Hitler needs oil.

Transport, a vital problem for the oil industry, has been solved in tbe Caucasus. Oil is bulky and sea transport is the only economical way to move big quantities over big distances. But, in the Caucasus, oil is on the shore of two seas. From Baku and Makhachkala on the Caspian the oil can move in big ships to the heart of Russia up the mighty river Volga. From Batum on the Black Sea the oil ships can go out into the oceans through the Mediterranean, up the Danube river into Germany, or up the rivers Dneiper and Don into Russian Ukraine. The Russians have laid down huge systems of iron pipes to bring the oil from the wells to these ports for onward shipment.

Until 1928 oil was one of the chief exports of the U. S. S. R. whereby foreign exchange was obtained to finance the rapid industrialisation of the country. So the Government concentrated on Batum as the most convenient oil-field from export point of view. The other Caucasion oil-fields of Grozny and Maikop, which now contribute substantially to the Russian production, were not intensively exploited till later. At present these oil-fields are connected by pipe-line with the port of Tuapse on the Black Sea. This port is one of the objectives of one wing of the German army which has already occupied the strategically important harbour of Novorossisk.

Even the extremely efficient German army will find the conquest of the Caucasus a formidably difficult undertaking. The roads are few and hazardous, bridges over deep and perilous rivers are likely to be blown up and there is only one railway line, which can be—and will be—rendered unusable to the invader. High mountain ranges have to be crossed by the invaders. Add to these serious difficulties the tough and warlike inhabitants of the Caucasian mountains who will carry on an interminable guerilla warfare from their hills, and you will get some idea of what the German armies are up against. What can Nazi tanks, heavy artillery, planes and paratroops do against poverty of communications ? Wild and mountainous countries defended by stout-hearted peoples are not easily conquered. It took the Imperial Russian Army seventy years to conquer the Caucasus. But only a month remains for Hitler to work the miracle. After that, when winter sets in, reinforcements will reach the hard pressed Russians, and the invaders will have to face the reorganised Russian armies and the guerilla mountaineers with their inborn and implacable

hatred of invaders. When we remember that Stalin is of Caucasian stock, and how resolutely and bravely he has fought the Nazi hordes, often to a standstill, we realise that in the conquest of Caucasia, the Nazis have no easy task before them.

Assuming however that the miracle worker of Germany is able to achieve another marvel and Caucasia is conquered by the German armies, it has to be realised that Hitler's difficulties are by no means resolved. It is easy to imagine what the oil-fields of the Caucasus would be made to yield under German management, but the Russians have added another weapon to the armoury of modern warfare, the policy of "scorched earth". In the event of the Reich securing control of the coveted oil-fields, they would cease to yield any oil—the Russians would destroy the oil-fields together with any stocks, before the Germans could extract a drop of oil. The Russians can and will destroy the wells rather than surrender their oil to grease the wheels of Hitler's ferocious armies. There would be a weary task of repairs and reboring before Hitler's first gallon of Russian oil reached the surface. Every trick of intrigue and every turn of force has been tried for three years by the would-be tyrants of the world, yet Russian oil still eludes them. Now with their hands almost upon the long coveted spoil they are fighting with hitherto unprecedented ferocity and desperation.

The grim battle for Stalingrad is therefore a battle for oil. If the Germans can establish themselves in this city on the banks of the river Volga they can break the route by which the Baku oil reaches central Russia. It is too late now to affect the winter supplies; in a few weeks the Volga will be frozen hard and the season for shipping on its broad stream will close till next summer. Winter oil in central Russia is already in store. But a continued German occupation of Stalingrad next summer might be a serious matter for Russian industry. Hence vital issues hang on this tremendous battle which has proved once more the toughness and courage of the Russian soldier.

It is problematical whether Germany can conquer the Caucasus; even if she does, she will not get oil in sufficiently large quantities immediately. Her oil position at present is serious. In a few months hence it will become desperate and that would mark the beginning of the end.

WEEKLY WAR. SUMMARY.

5—12—42 to 11—12—42.

Russia.—Unlike last winter when the Russian counter-attack were more or less sporadic the present operations, started even earlier than last year, continue with unabated vigour in both the STALINGRAD and MOSCOW sectors. The Volga

is not yet frozen, though ice impedes transport. In the central sector snow and blizzard hamper operations and ski-troops have made their appearance.

Enemy forces, trapped between the Don and the Volga but not yet completely encircled, are depending on supplies brought by air-borne shuttle-service, the condition being precarious and similar to that of the German forces at STARAYA RUSSA last year. In the factory area of STALINGRAD the Russians, are consolidating their recovered positions. Near the left bank of the Don Soviet troops are up against the strong German second line of defence. The Red army south of STALINGRAD holds on to its positions. Around NALCHIK the initiative remains with the Russians. Hitler having vowed not to relinquish his hold on STALINGRAD, continues to fight desperately. As the *Izvestia* puts it, 'It is incorrect to think that the enemy's capacity to resist is broken. The wounded beast is dangerous.'

In the central (MOSCOW) front the Soviet armies are now fighting many miles inside the deep enemy defences in the RZHEV-VIASMA—VELIKIYE LUKI salient and a terrific slogging match has developed. Here RZHEV occupies a key-position protecting SMOLENSK, the vital supply base for the Germans. Around it General Zhukov is executing a grand strategic plan of encirclement similar to that at STALINGRAD. He is attacking along a length of a hundred and fifty miles and, having pierced it already at four different points, he has created a bulge at BIELYI, 75 miles north west of STALINGRAD. He has also cut the RZHEV-LENINGRAD and the RZHEV-VYASMA railway lines, thereby threatening the German communications beyond SMOLENSK and towards the Latvian border.

Further north near Lake Ilman, Russian forces are pressing against the German line linking RZHEV with LENINGRAD.

In the Caucasus Russisn offensives are developing in the ORDZHONIKIDZE—MOZDOK and TUAPSI areas. In the approaches to TUAPSE the fighing is one of clashes between small detachments.

A new Russian offensive is reported from the VORONEJ front also.

Tunisia.—Enemy troops, equipment and aircraft, are being poured into TUNISIA as fast as the Germans can transport them and to the extent they can escape from the hunt and the chase of the Royal Air Force and Navy. In this the Germans have a tremendous advantage owing to the proximity of SICILY. At the beginning of the week British forward units had occupied MATEUR, south of BIZERTA and DJEDEIDA between BIZERTA and TUNIS. The occupation of DJEDEIDA also severed the enemy's communications between BIZERTA and TUNIS. But during the week the enemy recaptured DJEDEIDA and forced the British line back to TEBURBA, 5 miles west of DJEDEIDA. Violent fighting is now in progress in the DJEDEIDA—TEBURBA—MATEUR triangle. In the Sahara sector the British camel company has occupied the

Algerian-TRIPOLI communications. In an Allied raid on LA GOULETTE in Tunis Bay the harbour and railway sidings were damaged. On December 1,—2 British light naval forces engaged an enmy convoy bound for TUNISIA and sank four ships and three escorting destroyers. On December 4, U. S. bombers made their first attack on NAPLES hitting an Italian battleship and two cruisers. TURIN was raided once again.

El Agheila.—At the Libyan end General Montgomery is testing the enemys' defences. Rommel is estimated to have some 50,000 men here and is holding extensive strong points around MERSA MERGA on the coast, 25 miles in front of AGHEILA. The 8th Army is chiefly engaged in gun duels and patrol activity.

The Solomons.—Japanese efforts to reinforce their troops at GUADALCANAR continue to be repulsed. On Nov. 30—Dec. 1 a Japanese force of troops north of GUADALCANAR escorted by fleet units were interrupted by a task force, the enemy losing 2 destroyers (or cruisers), 4 destroyers, 2 troop transports and a cargo ship. On Dec. 3 American aircraft attacked a Japanese convoy off NEW GEORGIA.

New Guinea.—Japanese resistance is now confined to four points in PAPUA, the GONA beach-head, the Sananda Point, the BUNA Mission and the BUNA air-field. The trapped army now receives supplies brought by sea or dropped by parachute. The latest report announces the frustration of a Japanese naval attempt, for the fifth time, to bring relief.

China—On Nov. 27 the Chinese launched an attack against the Japanese positions south-west of KINHWA and the Japanese attacked Chinese positions at LOTUNG. A Japanese troop-laden ship was sunk in northern ANHWEI Province.

Burma.—On Dec. 3 the R. A. F. raided southern BURMA and sank a Japanese steamer on the Kaladan River. On Dec. 4, an India Task Force attacked PYAWBWE, 75 miles south of MANDALAY. On Dec. 5, the R. A. F. attacked a railway station near KATHA in Central BURMA and machine-gunned army huts near NATAYIGON.

India.—On Dec. 5, there was a brief enemy attack in the CHITTAGONG area, where most of the bombs fell in the water, and an aircraft was shot down in flames. The damage was slight and the casualties extremely few.

Miscellaneous.—1. Marshal Pétain has been virtually stripped of power and a new all-out collaborationist regime under Laval is emerging. M. Edouard Herriot, former French Prime Minister has been arrested.

2. An attempt on the life of Marshal Antonescu, the Rumanian dictator is reported. When he attended a military parade at BUCHAREST last month a shot was fired. He was unhurt but his adjutant was wounded.

3. A new railway line connecting IRAQ with IRAN was opened on Dec. 5. It will speed up supplies to RUSSIA. The work was done entirely by Indian surveyors, sappers and railway men.

4. British and American troops have crossed the borders of the French coloney of IVORY COAST in West AFRICA, Americans c ossing from LIBERIA and the British, from the GOLD COAST.

5. Col. Knox, the U. S. Navy Secretary announces that a quarter cf the French fleet at TOULON, that is, 15 warships and 5 tankers have fallen into the hands of the Germans, intact. Of the 50 more warships and a cargo boat damaged or sunk, three battleships were repairable. Only four submarines escaped.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

30—11—42 (Monday).

EUROPE (4 allied planes lost).

DAY:—

Railways and other targets in Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air fields at BIZERTA and TUNIS.
Enemy troops at EL AGHEILA.
The aerodrome at TRAPANI (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap forces on GUADALCANAR (Solomons).
Encircled Jap troops at BUNA (N. Guinea).
Docks at RANGOON (Burma).
PORT BLAIR (Andamans).

1—12—42 (Tuesday).

EURORE.

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

A south bound axis vessel off TUNISIA.
Docks and aerodrome at BIZERTA.
Aerodrome at TUNIS.
Shipping and harbour installations at TRIPOLI.
A train near GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Eastern battlefield.

FAR EAST.

Jap troops in the BUNA-GONA pocket.

2—12—42 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (one allied plane missing).

DAY:—

Railway targets, enemy troops and gun posts over Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.
Patrol over the BAY of BISCAY (3 allied planes lost).

NORTH AFRICA

Enemy shipping off TUNISIA.
The aerodrome at BIZERTA and TUNIS.
EL AGHEILA and **TRIPOLI.**

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy positions at SANANDA and in the BUNA-GONA area (N. Guinea).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
The aerodromes at MAGWE (Burma).
Railway stations at KADU and HAUNGTON (Burma).

3—12—42 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

No information available.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

BIZERTA, TUNIS and **GABES.**
A convoy bound for TRIPOLI.
German position at EL AGHEILA.
The aerodrome at MARBLE ARCH.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap position in the BUNA-GONA area (N. Guinea).
BUIN (Solomons).
The aerodrome at AKYAB.

4—12—42 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE, BELGIUM and HOLLAND.

Shipping, Naval units and the harbour at NAPLES (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA.

Docks and aerodrome at BIZERTA.
The aerodrome at TUNIS.
Enemy positions at EL AGHEILA
TRIPOLI.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the BUNA—GONA area (N. Guinea).
The aerodrome at KAVIENG (N. Ireland).
The aerodrome at LAE and SALAMAUA.

5—12—42 (Saturday).

EUROPE (one plane missing).

DAY:—
Railway and other targets in Northern FRANCE.

NORTH AFRICA

Docks at BIZERTA.
The aerodrome at TUNIS.
Railways in TUNISIA.
The harbour at TRIPOLI.
EL AGHEILA.

RUSSIA.

(For the week 28-11-42 to 5-12-42:—Russian air losses 102 planes; Axis air losses 192 planes.)

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.
German troops encircled in the STALINGRAD and RZEV areas.

FAR EAST.

Enemy defence installations in the BUNA-GONA area.
The aerodrome at KAVIENG (N. Ireland).
An enemy supply vessel off (Timor).
The Ry. station at KATHA Burma).
Japanese army huts at NATAYIGN (Burma).

6—12—42 (Sunday).

EUROPE (7 allied planes missing).

DAY:—
Philips wireless value and radio works at EINDHOVEN (Holland).
Railway targets and enemy barges in HOLLAND.
An electrical transformer and railway targets in BRITTANNY.
Diversionary fighter sweeps over Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.
Locomotive and carriage works at LILLE.
Enemy airfield at ABBEVILLE.

NIGHT:—
The important Ry. and industrial centre of KARLSRUHR (Germany).

NORTH AFRICA.

The Ry. track between SFAX and SOUSSE.
An aerodrome at SFAX.
Docks at BIZERTA.
TUNIS.
German poisitions between MERSA BREGA and TAMET.

SICILY.

The aerodrome at GELA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap position in the BUNA-GONA area.
The aerodrome at RABAUL.
BUIN (Solomons).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

1—12—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

NORTH AFRICA.

Advanced allied troops near TEBURBA.

FAR EAST.

The aerodrome at GUADALCANCAR.

2—12—42 (Wednesday)

BRITAIN.

2 places on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over TUNISIA (7 axis planes and 4 allied planes lost).

FAR EAST.

No information available.

3—12—42 (Thursday)

BRITAIN.

No air activity over BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

ALGIERS.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

4—12—42 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

A place in South-east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

The aerodrome at BONE (Algeria).

FAR EAST.

The aerodrome at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

5—12—42 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid.

NORTH AFRICA.

The airfield at ALGIERS.

RUSSIA.

Russian troops attaching in the RZEV sector.

FAR EAST.

An aerodrome in the CHITTAGONG area (India).

6—12—42. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

Places in the coastal area of South-east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Enemy position in the forward areas of TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

American positions in the BUNA-GONA area (N. Guinea).

7—12—42. (Monday).

BRITAIN (1 axis plane destroyed).

DAY:—
A coastal area in South-west ENGLAND.
NIGHT:—
South-coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

The aerodrome at BONE.

SIDE LIGHTS.

A GREAT MONTH. 'This last month of November,' Mr Churchill told his audience at BRADFORD on Dec. 5 'has proved a great month.' The flowing tide of successes from AFRICA to the SOLOMONS, from STALINGRAD to NEW GUINEA, coming as they do at the end of three years of war, after the Axis had repeatedly boasted of 'bombed-out' BRITAIN, 'annihilated' RUSSIA and the 'destroyed' American navy has dazzled the world, with the planning and daring of global operations and the greatness of the final achievements. The effect is seen in the dazed utterances of Goebbels whose unwarying formula now is 'planned retreat' and 'fighting according to plan,' combined with gargantuan lies about Allied shipping losses. He was not surely prepared for the series of great events which have immortalised 'this last month of November,'—Montgomery's heroic drive, the Anglo-American descent on North AFRICA, the Russian resilience at RZHEV and STALINGRAD and the SOLOMONS victories. The strength—the moral, spiritual and economic strength which upheld BRITAIN in 1940 in the hour of her trial is denied the Germans. To-day they stand, as their lying spokesman too well reveals, without hope or resource. German war production which reached its peak last summer has begun to decline. Her stocks of food are disappearing while a hungry, angry EUROPE, including GERMANY itself, growls and snarls, ready to tear its tyrant-captor to pieces. Here is something to ponder over, to be amused with, were it not also tragic. We take it from the *Times of India* :—

"EAT MORE RATS" News reaches us of Nazi Germany's latest secret weapon which has been in effective use on the home front for some time. It is the officially sponsored "Eat more Rats" campaign, which is being widely advertised in the swagger hotels of Paris.

In true German fashion, scientists are busy demonstrating the advantages to be enjoyed by including such delicacies in one's diet. It is stated in reliable German quarters (if any such exist) that research has been so encouraging as even to persuade the fastidious Fuehrer to abandon his exclusive vegetarian diet. A member of the Paris Academy of Medicine emphatically stated: "Rats are edible and even better than pork or rabbits". Whether Field-Marshal Goering was the subject of experimentation or whether, after tasting first quality rat meat, he gave the movement his enthusiastic support is not known. A revolutionary diet will apparently be a feature of Germany's New Order.

Some enterprising Germans have gone a step further and have been congratulated by the imaginative Dr. Goebbels for their remarkable far-sightedness

These Germans have appealed to the public to co-operate in the campaign which will not only secure a meat diet but will also help in destroying the pests. We advise the Gestapo to track down the agency which gave the world first-hand information regarding this latest of Germany's secret weapons.

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TUNISIA. In the BIZERTA—TUNIS area the Germans have constructed a defensive arc, thirty miles long and running south and west of the two ports. Constructed in considerable depth, buttressed by a large force in a small area and powerfully supported by the *Luftwaffe* they are slowing down the Allied advance. The Air battle is reported to be fought with an intensity 'unequalled since the days of the Battle of BRITAIN.' This shows the importance which the Germans attach to the Battle of TUNISIA and this is further proved by the report that some powerful elements of the *Luftwaffe* have been transferred from the Russian front and that German pilots who flew over STALINGRAD a fortnight ago are now encountered over TUNISIA. For one thing this is the advantage which GERMANY owes to interior lines of communication. Yet the Allies are holding their own in TUNISIA. They have bombed the air-field at BIZERTA with the result that some of the German planes have preferred to withdraw to SICILY. On land the Allies have fought their way to the east coast and cut off the enemy's communications between northern and southern TUNISIA. An Allied wedge has been driven between BIZERTA and TUNIS. But with each advance, the fighting, as was expected, is becoming more and more bitter and the enemy's resistence is growing stronger and stronger.

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VELIKIYE LUKI. The news that the Red Army has broken the German front at VELIKIYE LUKI is important, as it shows that the Russian advance north-west of MOSCOW is well under way. VELIKIYE is an important railway junction connected with MOSCOW in the east, RIGA in the west, LENINGRAD in the north and KIEV in the south. Through it runs the lateral railway line by which German reinforcements and supplies arrive.

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STALINGRAD. The suggestion of the *London Times* that STALINGRAD should be awarded the George Cross will, we are sure, be hailed. It will be a fitting reply to Hitler's boast that he would take the city. It is pleasant to think that LENINGRAD and STALINGRAD which bear the names of their national leaders bear a charmed life as it were in spite of Hitler's *panzers* and *Luftwaffe*. The defence of STALINGRAD is a saga of brilliant defence. Had it not been for the immortal Russian stand

before STALINGRAD, the offensive in AFRICA would not have been undertaken and the Allies would still be at EL ALAMEIN fighting a defensive battle.

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DARLAN. An Algiers message announces that an agreement has been reached whereby DAKAR will become an Allied base, and the air-ports in French West AFRICA will be used by Allied planes. This is another distinctive step in the participation of the French Colonies in the war. Under Admiral Darlan and Admiral Boisson, General Giraud and General Nogues the French Colonial forces, formerly under Vichy, are now fighting freedom's battle. But the hitch over Darlan remains. A few days ago he announced himself to have assumed the prerogative of Chief-of-State in the place of Pétain, and General Eisenhower sent him his congratulations. But Mr. Eden told the House of Commons that BRITAIN was not consulted and was in no way bound by the announcement. General de Gaulle foresees a civil war and states that French soldiers, whether in TUNISIA, LIBYA, or in the Pacific, are soldiers of FRANCE and 'not of any person'. From the other side of the Atlantic Wendell Willkie declares that on account of the arrangement entered into with Darlan AMERICA has 'lost moral force' and 'may lose the peace'. The Soviet Press and M. Maisky, the Russian Ambassador in LONDON are highly critical of the arrangement by which authority has been given to a man 'who went to such lengths as Admiral Darlan did, in his policy of collaboration with the Nazis'. General Catroux's condemnation, is the most outspoken. He says that the French forces with the 8th Army are stupefied and that the presence of Darlan in the long rear of the First Army fighting in TUNISIA is a threat that cannot be ignored and will cease only with Darlan's removal.

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HONOUR, WHERE HONOUR IS NOT DUE. The German-controlled PARIS Radio accuses Laval as responsible for the scuttling of the TOULON Fleet. It gives honour where honour is not due. It is perhaps a Hitlerian trick to get rid of Laval in favour of Deat.

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DECEMBER 7, the day of the PEARL HARBOUR anniversary has come and gone, reminding us once again, lest we should forget—though we shall not, the foul, cold, calculated and treacherous deed that was done in the Hawaiian coast by the Japanese imps. The damage due to the surprise attack was, as the official report published on the eve of the anniversary reveals, no doubt, extensive in men, ships and planes, but we are happy to note that all the damaged vessels have returned to their fleet fitter than ever and modernised and the harbour's defences

have been restored. The Japanese who claimed to have sent 42% of the American Fleet to the bottom of PEARL HARBOUR met their avenger again and again during the year in the Coral Sea, Midway and in the SOLOMONS. Though the day of full retribution is just not yet, much has been achieved already. AMERICA's recovery, all within a single year, has been remarkable. Besides her air force which is doing a grand job by taking a toll of about 5 to 1 at every Japanese encounter, her navy has opened up the sea-lanes for the free flow of men and materials.

But American strategy has gone further. AMERICA is now beating JAPAN in EUROPE. In her wisdom she has recognised that her supreme enemy is not her immediate assailant in ASIA but her partners in EUROPE. AMERICA has drawn the sword in earnest and will not sheathe it till the enemies of world's freedom have been laid low, in the east as well as in the west.

As for the Pacific, American endeavours are directed to the attrition of the enemy's strength. During the year, through U. S. action alone, JAPAN has lost 3 battleships, 6 aircraft-carriers, 28 cruisers, 47 destroyers, 7 submarines and 265 other war vessels, besides a large number of transports and vessels. These impressive figures exclude additional losses inflicted by British and Dutch action in the Pacific waters. In the words of Col. Knox, 'JAPAN's maritime strength has been cut to within a few thousand tons short of desperately impairing her lines of communication and supply. The time is actually close when the Japanese forces in the occupied islands in the Pacific will suffer from lack of replacements of man-power, weapons, ammunition and medical supplies owing to lack of ships to transport them. Patient whittling away of the ship strength lessens the magnitude of the task of our men along the road to TOKYO.'

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ITALY TOTTERS. In these two words Col. Knox has well expressed the present position of this unfortunate country where, with the exception of one man, no one has the heart to fight or knows the reason why he is fighting ? At long last and after a silence of 18 months, this one man, Mussolini, broke silence on December 2 to ask his countrymen to evacuate from cities which had become the targets of Anglo-American bombing and to accuse BRITAIN as the author of all the misery. He blamed Mr. Churchill for calling him a hyena—he once called him a whipped Jackal also—forgetting how well he deserved the appellation, by his conduct in the present war. His first act was one of treachery : he fell on prostrate FRANCE and stabbed her in the back, when she could not retaliate and now has seized NICE and CORSICA when she has been disarmed. Who can excuse his Abyssinian inhumanities, his Libyan cruelties and his present atrocities in GREECE ?

Hitler, his confederate, has undone him. The Italians who hoped to spend their Christmas at ALEXANDRIA are now behind barbed wires there. Italians who were enslaved to fight in RUSSIA also find themselves behind prison bars, caught in their thousands in the Russian winter assaults. While their own cities are being bombed, and shelters are being hastily erected, thousands of Italians are condemned to labour in German factories to do the tyrants' work. They cannot come back even to save their country. It is poor consolation that Mussolini should tell his countrymen that Hitler has promised anti-aircraft artillery. When they come they will complete the Nazi occupation of ITALY. Meanwhile, ITALY is in no shape to endure heavy bombing. Her economy is strained, her defences are weak and her people are alarmed and war-weary. ITALY has known no respite from war for nearly eight years. The Abyssinian war of 1935 was followed by the Albanian and Spanish campaigns, and has now been succeeded by the disasters in Eastern and Northern AFRICA, which have cost her her 'empire'. The Italian people are dissatisfied with the Fascist régime and loathe Mussolini as the author of all their miseries. Hatred of the Nazi, who has come with his gestapo is now stronger than even the fear of surrender to an Allied attack. Food-shortage is acute, their shame at successive defeats is even more acute than hunger— in GREECE, in LIBYA, in ERITREA, in ABYSSINIA, in the naval engagements it has proved a series of disasters, defeats and humiliations such as no self-respecting nation has ever endured. The Italian soldier has not only become a laughing stock but has been abandoned and ill-treated even by his German masters. The number of generals taken prisoner, or dismissed is proof of the broken, dilapidated state of the army. The Crown and the Church of ITALY are both displeased with the present régime; the peasants and the workers long for peace and bread, and the hour, as foretold by Mr. Churchill, seems to be ripe for ITALY to leave the Axis. The British drive in CYRENAICA and the Anglo-American descent on French North AFRICA have completely altered the picture.

A RAID A DAY may be said to be the November record of the Allied air-forces operating in the Far-Eastern theatre. The most noticeable feature has been the inauguration of night-bombing by the R. A. F. from about the middle of the month on the so-called enemy's 'invasion' port at AKYAB. Apart from bombing the enemy's buildings and shipping there were also regular encounters. Among the targets may be mentioned MINGALADON, MAGWE, MEIKTILA, TOUNGOO, MANDALAY and BANGKOK.

The 10th U. S. A. Air-Force, 'still in short pants', as General Bissell described it, has, in spite of admittedly bad weather, done 'a man-sized job'. It carried out 21 operations in the month, the task force in INDIA being

responsible for 10 attacks on BURMA, delivering 150 tons of bombs, and the task force in CHINA for 11 more. 9 enemy ships were sunk or damaged, while the total number of enemy aircraft lost or destroyed was 58, or nearly, 2, a day.

In reply, the enemy has been contented with sending a plane or two. Not a single bomb was dropped on Indian soil. Three attacks were made on U. S. air-bases in CHINA, with some damage to runways which was easily repaired. In a night-raid all the three attacking-planes were shot down.

The paucity of enemy raids on the Indian frontier must be ascribed to the air-supremacy the R. A. F. has established in the area, as well as to the extensive losses the enemy has already suffered in other theatres and to his preoccupations elsewhere.

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SABOTAGE. 'If you have been short of sugar, you know who is to blame. Damage to the railways in BIHAR has affected the public as far away as MADRAS', so remarked Sir Edward Benthall, Transport Member, Government of India, on Dec. 4, inaugurating a series of broadcasts on war-time transport. It is not the producer, he added, for there is plenty in the land; it is not the railway, which it is fashionable to blame because to move food is a railway's first duty; it is not even the hoarder or the self-seeking trader, though he is often to blame; but it is the saboteur, the culprit of civil disobedience who has cut the railway and impeded the movement of food. And who have suffered most? They are the unfortunate third class passengers, as Sir Edward added, 'whose train services are still being curtailed while the arrears of goods traffic is made up, and the millions, who, for a time, had to do without their sugar from BIHAR or were at the mercy of rapacious profiteers.'

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A REIGN OF TERROR. A story of frightful lawlessness, bred of civil disobedience, comes from the flood and cyclone affected areas of BENGAL, a tale which goes to show that the spirit of mischief is still very much abroad, and is still continuing its baleful activities in spite of humanitarian needs to the contrary. The only bright feature in the gruesome story is the assistance rendered by the British troops stationed in the area, who, even before official help could reach the sufferers, shared their rations with the victims and gave their milk to the children. On the other hand, the disaffected elements—the political malcontents—set up a reign of terror in the area, bent on isolating it and substituting a régime of intimidation, persecution and extortion. Even before the cyclone had done its destructive work the hooligans had interrupted road and telegraphic communications and destroyed police stations, post offices and water-borne

craft and ferries. A parallel administration was attempted with so-called courts, jails and 'Volunteers', set up by the terrorists. An economic boycott was instituted. Stocks of food were looted. Government officers were evicted or cruelly beaten, chowkidars and dafadars were subjected to persecution and assault. Houses were burnt and clerks and constables were beaten. We think we have told enough of the noisome story to show that the demon of lawlessness is still abroad.

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SINO-BRITISH CONCORD. The visit of the British Parliamentary Mission to CHUNGKING has aroused great enthusiasm in CHINA. Never before for the past 700 years has a good-will mission visited a foreign country, jointly representing both Houses of the British Parliament. Appreciating the gesture, CHINA has accorded a most cordial welcome. CHINA recognises BRITAIN's immense assistance in her task of reconstruction and in the part she now plays in the world struggle. She also understands how the marvellous Anglo-American offensive in AFRICA will eventually open the BURMA road and lift the war in the Far East.

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REUNION ISLAND, which the Allies have now occupied lies in the Indian Ocean. It has declared for De Gaulle and its transfer completes the allegiance of the French Empire to the Allied cause, with the solitary exception of DJIBOUTI. The occupation of the Island purges the Indian Ocean of Axis interference, all along north of a line drawn from CAPE TOWN to MELBOURNE. The safety of the Cape route, near which it lies, is now assured. In itself the island is small, with an area of 970 square miles and a population of 1,97,933 persons.

MR. CHURCHILL'S MESSAGE TO TROOPS IN INDIA.

(*December 8.*)

To-day ends a year in which Japan has enjoyed the fleeting success, which sometimes comes to evil-doers. But her crimes have brought mighty forces into play. We now see portents of the combined power of the British, the American, Chinese and Russian peoples. The time is surely coming, when we shall be able to settle the long score, which we have against Japan.

The armed forces of the United Nations within the area of the India Command, drawn from the peoples of India, Britain, America and Ceylon, are a symbol of the outraged world's resistance to forces of evil and aggression. Your task to-day is defence; the defence of India and Ceylon until the time is ripe to move forward. As Britain has been held in the west, so India must

be held in the east, and all the time, you, to whom this defence is entrusted, must ceaselessly prepare for the day, when you will advance, and drive the aggressor from the peaceful lands which he has over-run.

The period of waiting must be irksome to all of you, eager as you must be to share in the victories which our arms are winning elsewhere; but remember that the task, which you are at present performing on land or sea or in the air, is no less vital a part of the common effort of the United Nations. Others may now be first in the field of victory, but the great forces assembling in the India Command are destined to play, before the end, a glorious part in achieving the downfall of our enemies.

RETRIBUTION IS NEAR.

Mr. Churchill—London—December 7.

A year ago to-day, we saw committed one of the most wanton acts of aggression recorded in history. Japan, made reckless by her ambitions and audacious by our difficulties, assaulted Hongkong and Malaya.

We had long been struggling—for a time alone—with two great Powers in Europe, who had carefully prepared for the war they desired. Japan, coldly, greedily, treacherously, calculated that we should not then have the forces available to save our British territories and States in Malaya and Borneo, for whose defence we were responsible.

Those territories and States were overrun, their defenders killed or imprisoned, their inhabitants enslaved. For a year, our thoughts have gone out to all of you Malays, Indians, Burmans, Chinese, Dutch and British, who are suffering so cruelly. But what a change in the picture there is to-day.

Years of defence, of stubborn outnumbered ill-equipped, almost miraculous defence, are behind us; everywhere the United Nations turn to attack. The storm which now lowers over Germany and Italy is spreading to Japan.

NO RESPITE FOR HER.

There will be no softness or respite for her. The growing power of the United Nations will press steadfastly on till she is stripped of her conquests, punished for her powers of evil. Retribution was always sure. It is now growing near.

That is the message I give you to-day, that is the message I know you want to hear. Before the Japanese invasion, all of us Malays, Indians, Burmans, Chinese, Dutch and British had gone far together on the road towards an ordered civilised and happy life. Our progress is only interrupted.

When the Japanese aggression is broken, as broken it will be, we shall go forward again and find together even closer comradeship, even surer paths to happiness for each and all. Lift up your hearts, we shall not fail you.

TOWARDS VICTORY.

Mr. Churchill—Bradford—December 5.

But what I have felt during this month when much fighting has been going on by the British and Americans has been a feeling of gladness that we are engaging the enemy closely, and not leaving an undue burden to be borne by the Russians who have carried this immense struggle the whole of this year and a large part of last year.

They are defending their own country, we are defending our own country, but we are all of us defending something which is—I won't say dearer—but greater than a country, namely, a cause.

That cause is the cause of freedom and of justice. That cause is the cause of the weak against the strong. It is the cause of law against violence, of mercy and tolerance against brutality and iron-bound tyranny.

That is the cause we are fighting for—a cause which is moving slowly and painfully, but surely, inevitably and inexorably forward to victory.

And when that victory is gained, you will find you are in a better world which can be made even more fair and more happy, if only all peoples will join together to do their part and if all classes and parties stand together to reap the fruits of victory as they are standing together to bear and face the terrors and menaces of war.

Our enemies are very powerful. They have many millions of soldiers. They have millions of prisoners whom they, in many cases, use like slaves. They have rich lands which they have conquered, they have large and gifted populations in their grip.

They have a theme of their own which is the Nazi theme of tyranny and domination of race in shameful idolatry of a single man—a base man elevated almost to the status of God by his demented and degraded worshippers.

They have this idea of suppression of the individual citizen, man and woman to be mere chattels of the State machine.

All this in our view is at stake. But our enemies are powerful. They consider they will have the strength to wear us out even if they cannot beat us down.

Their hope is now to prolong the struggle so that, perhaps, differences will arise between friends and Allies, so that, perhaps, the Democracies they despise and whom they underrate will weary of the war.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GO IN FOR THE FINISHING BLOW.

Ernest Bevin—London—December 7.

We are rather in the position of being in the prize ring when we have just put our opponent down for eight but he has got up again. He is a bit groggy, he is beginning to stagger. Now is the time to go in for the finishing blow.

Now is the time for every man and woman in our workshops up and down the country to pour out equipment in order that our lads in the air, on the sea and on the battlefield can have everything they want.

I think when the history of this war is written, it will be found that women tipped the scales of victory. We could never have produced man-power for our forces if women had not taken their place in the factories and developed the marvellous skill they have shown.

'CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE' WHAT IT HAS LED TO?

H. E. The Governor of Bombay.

Bombay, November 25.

The fruits of the Congress Civil Disobedience campaign are murder, violence, arson and robbery at the expense of the public and not paralysis of Government. Those are facts to which I say we should hold.

The more they are realised, the sooner we will see the end of an ill-conceived campaign, which has done no good to anybody and some harm to a number of ordinary people.

To turn from the great endeavours which you are sharing with millions of others in every land, who count no sacrifice too great to save the world from the most evil thing which has threatened mankind for hundreds of years, to turn from this to the campaign of petty sabotage which is being carried on in some parts of the province, is like stepping on to another planet in which values have been reversed. In times like these when the future of every person in this country depends on the outcome of the world war, I wish to state a few simple facts that we must hold on to, and there are two which stand out most clearly at the present time.

These activities whatever the beliefs or motives behind them, help or at least encourage the enemy. They help the Axis Powers, whose brutal methods and soulless philosophy have killed or maimed the lives of millions in Europe and Asia.

ONLY ONE ANSWER.

There can be only one answer to the activities which led to that result. They have been checked, and will continue to be checked, with firmness, so long as they last. Any other course would be a betrayal of the sacred cause which thousands have died to uphold on almost every day of the last three years, and would be giving a stab in the back to your own sons and brothers who are standing to arms to defend this country.

The other simple fact is becoming plainer every day. These activities are not so much hurting Government as hurting the public. To the Government they are pin-pricks, and the Government is like an elephant, and scarcely notices pin-pricks. Not only has Government not been paralysed, but it continues to function to-day, every bit as effectively as before the movement was launched.

"TOUGHEST GENERAL IN THE BRITISH ARMY"

GENERAL MONTGOMERY EXPECTS A LOT AND GIVES A LOT.

(*Sidney Horniblow*).

They reckon he is the toughest General in the British Army—54-year-old Bernard Law Montgomery who recently took over command of the Eighth Army in Egypt.

He is a ruthless disciplinarian, but there is not a man under his command who does not respect and admire him.

When he was General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South-Eastern Command of Britain, he had every single officer and clerk under 40 at his headquarters out at 7 o'clock every morning for physical jerks. And every body from private to Brigadier had to run six miles each week over a stiff cross-country course. General Montgomery himself ran the course, so no one could complain on that score.

Ruthless himself, this new Eighth Army Commander, has no illusions about the utter ruthlessness of the enemy. That is why he has always planned the training of the men under him along the severest possible lines. Never have soldiers on manœuvres in the British Army been set such grim and brilliantly planned endurance tests as these devised by Montgomery. Many a man has said that he would rather be on active service than training under the General.

"A MAN AMONG MEN"

Where Montgomery gets the pull is that he is a man among men. The less time he has to spend at his desk and the more he can get out among his troops, the better he likes it. He so organised his office work at South-Eastern Command headquarters that he got it all done between six and seven in the morning. All day he was out in the field; testing defences, talking to his troops and also to the Home Guard in the area. On a wet night he would be just as happy sleeping under a hedge as he would in his own bed.

He makes it a rule to be asleep by nine o' clock, or as soon after as possible, and he is up before most men in the morning.

A great believer in Youth, he never smokes and rarely drinks alcohol. He reckons a soldier is at his fighting best between 23 and 30. A company commander should not be more than 35, whilst a Brigadier is at his best at 40.

And the finest soldier, so long as he has the brains as well, is the agile, tough, 100 per cent fit man, in Montgomery's view.

The fact is, Montgomery expects a lot of his men—health, intelligence, courage, ingenuity and a rigid self-discipline. He is the son of a bishop, grandson of a Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Keenly religious, severe but sympathetic, alert, alive, exacting, and always with a boundless enthusiasm and tireless energy. At 54 he is as fit and full of life as when he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a Second-Lieutenant 34 years ago. That was when he left Sandhurst.

GREAT WAR RECORD.

He was among the first men to land in France in August 1914, and was no sooner there than he was promoted to the rank of temporary Captain. For three years he saw service on the Western Front. He was twice wounded, six times mentioned in despatches, and won the Distinguished Service Order and the French Croix de Guerre.

For several months towards the close of the war he was temporary Lieutenant-Colonel and General Staff Officer, First Grade. He was a Staff Officer on the Rhine, and in Ireland, England and India. He passed through the Staff College, and was later an instructor at both Camberley and Quetta.

In August 1937, Montgomery was given a brigade in the Southern Command, Britain, with the rank of Brigadier. In the spring of 1938 he was promoted Major-General and when this present war started he took the 3rd Division to France and led them throughout the campaign there. After the return from Dunkirk he commanded an Army Corps in Britain and later took over the South-Eastern Command.

Now he is in charge of the Eighth Army in the Desert. The short, tough man with the bronzed open-air look about him has the chance to put into practice the tactics he planned with such vigour and precision among his men at home in England.

THE MALTA OF SOUTH PACIFIC.

How Port Moresby turned the Tide of Jap offensive

(*H. C. Stotesbury, in the Illustrated Weekly of India*).

A year ago most of us were ignorant of the very existence of Port Moresby. To-day it is world famous! The veriest tyro in Geography knows its exact location, and there are very few indeed who are unacquainted with its strategical importance.

For months Port Moresby has stood inviolable and defiant in the face of multiple air attacks by the Japanese. The causes which have enabled this small out-post of the Empire to thwart all Nipponese attempts to bracket it with Rabaul, Salamua and Lae, have puzzled many.

We will have to go back to 1918 to arrive at one of the main reasons for this. By the Treaty of Versailles, New Guinea was mandated to Australia, and under the terms of this mandate Japanese traders were accorded the right of entry into the territory. No town in the east was exempt from the subtle Japanese system of espionage, and we realised all too late that most of those servile, sycophantic shop-walkers and store-keepers were spies.

A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Papua, on the contrary, was a colony of the commonwealth and the Australian immigration restrictions were enforced more rigorously there than they were in Australia itself. Not a single Jap had been permitted to visit the colony, leave alone settle in it.

The security and seeming invulnerability of Port Moresby is, however, very largely due to its unique situation and physical characteristics. "Papua and New Guinea" is a long, narrow, lozenge-shaped island, bisected by a forbidding range of mountains which rise to a height of 15,000 feet. New Guinea lies to the north and Papua to the south of this formidable obstacle. The main chain is flanked on either side by steep, serrated sub-ranges of sand-stone, lime-stone and conglomerate. No roads and, owing to perpetual inter-tribal enmity, hardly any bush paths traverse this inhospitable terrain.

The towns of New Guinea are all situated on the coast and were fully exposed to sea and air attacks by the Japs, but Port Moresby, the capital of Papua, nestles at the foot of the mountains, and any approach from the north has to be over this stupendous barrier.

There are only two possible overland routes open to an aggressor: one *via* the Markham valley, and the other from Buna, 125 miles to the north. The former is narrow and steep and affords no sustenance for infiltrating forces. The Japanese have failed twice in their attempts to exploit it. The latter crosses the Owen Stanley Range at Kokoda, which is 6,000 feet above sea level and 65 miles from Port Moresby. The track becomes a mere trail, the steep ravines which intersect it, and the heavy bush which flanks it, rendering it none too secure.

The approach by sea is fraught with many difficulties, which the Japs are reluctant to face. The Great Barrier Reef of Australia protects the eastern flank of the port.

The Nipponese, having failed in their attempts to use the Markham valley, concentrated on continuous, abortive air attacks.

The natural surroundings have been mainly responsible for the failure of these onslaughts from above. In order to reach the town, attacking planes have to fly over the central range at an elevation of at least 7,000 feet; and so closely does this Liliputian township cling to the foot of the mountains that fast flying machines are almost over and past, before it comes into view. To slow down would be fatal, for the carefully trained anti-aircraft batteries in the surrounding bush would "down" any plane attempting to soar past.

Even if Tojo had added Port Moresby to his list of trophies it would have availed him but little, for a most effective scorched-earth policy could be carried out within a few minutes. The town happens to be situated in the only dry zone in the island. It depends for its water supply on large iron tanks raised on wooden trestles round each house, which catch and conserve the meagre rain water running down the roof gutters. Government has blasted a reservoir "somewhere in the hills". With the reservoir breached and the tanks destroyed, there would be no water for the invaders.

The whole southern coast of Papua consists of bush, mangrove and immense swamps, infested with millions of mosquitoes and the happy hunting grounds of man-eating alligators. To the south-west lie 3,000 square miles of black ooze and mud—the delta of the Fly river.

No landing grounds other than Kokoda exist north of the Torres straits. If the Japs could have secured Port Moresby, however, the north coast of Australia would have been open to their aircraft. But Port Moresby stands firmer than ever to-day.

FROZEN ANARCHY.

'THE ABOMINATION THAT MAKETH DESOLATE.'

(*The Nineteenth Century and After*, *September 1942*).

If the British Empire were to come to an end, there would be anarchy not in India alone, but throughout the Old World. It would be the doom not only of Australia and New Zealand, but of China, Russia, Africa and all Europe. It would not even lead to the establishment of a Pax Japonica in Asia and a Pax Germanica in Europe, for there would be no Pax at all. The Germans and the Japanese can make war, but they cannot make peace. If the Germans had been able to make peace, they would have won the war by now. Their own 'totalitarian' despotism is but a frozen anarchy, and the domination they exercise over the peoples they have conquered is nothing else. The result of German-Japanese victory would not be peace, not even a bad peace, but endless warfare, in every form—there would be constant military campaigns, armed risings, strikes, assassinations and political, social and economic crises and upheavals. The alternative to the British Empire is indeed the Biblical 'abomination that maketh desolate'.

IN MORTAL DANGER.

LET FACTS SPEAK.

The first conference of the Asia Development Association was recently held in Tokyo, when General Hayashi, the Japanese President of the Association declared "The basis of the new world order is the establishment of the

co-prosperity sphere which assures the welfare of all the nations and people in the world". Let us see how it works. Before the war the Philippines were not only self-sufficient in sugar, but actually exported great quantities of it. Japan however, does not need sugar from the Philippines, and she can get all she wants from conquered Java. She does, however, want cotton and so of course the Philippines must grow it. The Japanese military authorities in the Philippines have therefore introduced a plan by which the Philippines in 5 years must substitute cotton for sugar cane so as to meet 30 per cent. of the total Japanese requirements. This new cotton together with the production planned in China would completely supplant Indian exports of cotton to Japan, and the Indian textile market would be flooded with cheap Japanese cloth—manufactured from Chinese and Filipino cotton, under the lash of Japanese whips. Both the Indian farmer and industrialist would be ruined. For years, we have worked and toiled unceasingly for higher prices and a higher standard of life. Both these achievements so near realisation, are in mortal danger. We can save them, but YOU and I must first WILL to resist.

INDIAN'S PART IN DEFENCE OF BRITISH ISLES.

(*Madras War Review*).

Men and women from India and other Eastern countries are now playing an active—in some cases a prominent—part in the defence of the British Isles, reports the Arab News Agency.

Several hundred, particularly women, are giving their services in a civilian capacity, but there are many more men from the East in the fighting forces in British than is generally known.

The Royal Air Force has been a great attraction for young men who were students in England when the war broke out. Many have been outstandingly successful in the air and about 40 have been commissioned from the ranks of the Royal Air Force.

A remarkable reputation has been gained by the Indian Pioneer Corps in Britain composed principally of students, seamen and others to whom a life in khaki appealed. All receive British service rates of pay, and when the Luftwaffe harried London they earned every penny of it.

Accustomed to working without heavy gear, they astonished the more orthodox British Pioneers by the speed with which they cleared away awkward debris. They won such a reputation that it was common place for them to be assigned to tasks where the introduction of heavy clearance machinery was impracticable.

Many doctors from India are serving in the R. A. M. C. Numbers of students unable to return to their own countries have undergone Government

Engineering courses and the majority are now earning an average of £ 7 a week in munition factories.

Organizations which in peace time had frequently to assist needy students report that they have had no call on their funds for a long time, as all those in whom they take a beneficient interest are earning good money and are far removed from financial stringency.

So far there is only one girl from the East in the Auxiliary, Territorial Service. She is from India. But there are hundreds in the fire-fighting, nursing and comfort-distributing organizations. These women did especially fine work during the London and Liverpool blitzes when they operated in bands, usually under the direction of male relatives who are doctors or medical students.

TRAINING INDIAN CADETS.

Indian Military Academy.

(From the Times of India).

A great point is made of endurance and cadets have to undergo endurance tests lasting several days in all sorts of conditions. The hills, valleys and 'nallahs' surrounding Dehra Dun provide an ideal setting for such tests and jungle warfare. Only recently a party of cadets required to find its way back to the Academy with the help of maps lost its way and spent the night in the jungle without food or blankets and returned only the next evening. Riding lessons have been dropped as modern warfare has dispensed with war horses.

A realistic phase of the training is that cadets are made to overcome obstacles by walking on ropes or on thin logs of wood or by swinging across a ditch with the help of a rope. Cracker bombs burst and smoke engulfs trenches when cadets move about them and gasmasks are worn when they pass through a building emitting tear-gas.

Of the cadets trained since expansion began half came from the Punjab. The order for the other provinces is, U. P., Bombay, N. W. F. P., Madras, Bengal, C. P., Sind, Baluchistan, Assam and Bihar. Mysore tops the list among the States. Then follow Hyderabad, Kashmir, Patiala, Travancore and the Rajputana States. The experience of the authorities at the Academy is that it cannot be dogmatised that good officers come from any particular area or class. The test of an officer in the final analysis is that of guts in addition to moral quality.

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LECTURE CXXV. (*Batch 1.*)

12–12–42	Municipal Office .	6.00 p.m.	15–12–42	Kiranur ...	7.00 p.m.
13–12–42	Puvarasagudi ...	7.00 „	„	Nanjur ...	7.30 „
„	Venkatakulam ...	7.30 „	16–12–42	Arimalam ...	7.00 „
14–12–42	Perungalur ...	7.00 „	„	Kilanilaikkottai.	7.30 „
„	Adanakkottai ...	7.30 „	17–12–42	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 „
			„	Killukottai ...	7.30 „

LECTURE CXXVI. (*Batch 2*)

19–12–42	Municipal Office.	7.45 p.m.	21–12–42	Vengalur ...	7.00 p.m.
20–12–42	Kudumiyamalai ..	7.00 „	„	Konapattu ...	7.30 „
„	Parambur ...	7.30 „	22–12–42	Panayappatti ...	7.00 „
			„	Rangiyam ...	7.30 „

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12—12—42	Vettamviduthi.
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15—12—42	Perambur.
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17—12—42	Kilanilaikkottai.
19—12—42	Ponnamaravathi.
20—12—42	Kodumbalur.
21—12—42	Arimalam.
22—12—42	Konapattu.

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